

Remarks

Status of the Subject Application

Claims 2 and 8-19 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent 6,557,013 to Ziff et al. (hereinafter "Ziff").

Claims 1, 4, and 6 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent 6,044,354 to Asplen, Jr. (hereinafter "Asplen").

Claim 3 was rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Asplen in view of United States patent 5,721,903 to Anand et al.

Claim 5 was rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Asplen in view of United States patent 6,330,545 to Suh.

Claim 7 was rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Asplen in view of Ziff.

In the Claims

Claims 8-14 and 16-17 have been amended herein to clarify their subject matter.

Claims 1-7 and 19 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 20-57 have been added. Applicants submit that claims 20-57 are allowable, and are supported in the Subject Application.

Rejections under §102(e)

Amended independent claim 8 recites, *inter alia*, that the "registration module is to store data related to an *innovator* and the innovator's *innovation* in an innovation database. . ." (emphasis added).

Ziff states that it "relates generally to a system and method for managing the workflow associated with a story and in particular to a system and method for managing the workflow associated with the preparation, editing and creation of a story." See column 1, lines 9-13.

Ziff states in its Summary of the Invention that it provides “a *story* workflow management system and method.” See column 2, lines 45-46. In this system, “each step of the story creation process from initial lead generation to final publication of the story is tracked so that the entire story creation process is more easily managed.” See column 2, lines 45-49.

Ziff also states that it is “particularly applicable to a system for managing the workflow for the creation of success stories for a corporation or other entity...” See column 4, line 66 through column 5, line 1. Ziff also states that it “has greater utility, such as to any other type of stories which may include news feature stories, magazine articles, wire service articles and the like.” See column 5, lines 2-7. Ziff further states that its system is also applicable to press relations, marketing, e-marketing, customer education, and human resources fields. See column 5, lines 7-18.

The Examiner has stated that Ziff, in column 6, lines 48-64 and column 7, lines 13-19, discloses a registration module that is “adapted to accept and store[] dated related to an innovator and the innovator’s innovation in an innovation database. . .”

However, Applicants respectfully submit that at column 6, lines 48-64 and column 7, lines 13-19, Ziff discloses portions of a workflow management system that stores information concerning “stories” and controls access to the stories. Thus, Ziff does not disclose matter related to an “innovator” or the innovator’s “innovation” at column 6, lines 48-64 and column 7, lines 13-19. Additionally, Applicants respectfully submit that Ziff does not otherwise disclose innovation-related matter, but instead discloses a system and method for managing the workflow associated with a “story.”

For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 8 is patentable over Ziff because Ziff does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 8. Thus, while Ziff may not qualify as a §102(e) prior art reference to the Subject Application as broached previously during prosecution, Ziff furthermore does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 8.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9-18 are also patentable because they depend from patentable claim 8. Applicants note that they did not amend claims 8-14 and 16-17 to overcome the rejections based upon Ziff. Applicants amended those claims merely to ensure they were formatted with proper antecedent basis in their terms and without typographical error.

Similar Claims in Related Application

09/687,510 Claims 1-11 and Subject Application Claims 8-18

Applicants note that the pending related application 09/687,510, filed October 12, 2000, included original claims 1-11 that were substantially similar to the original claims 8-18 of the Subject Application. During prosecution of 09/687,510, those claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable under each of United States Patent No. 6,339,774 to Nakayama et al. and United States Patent No. 6,151,707 to Hecksel. Those claims 1-11 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent Application No. 2002/0016727 to Harrell et al.

Those claims 1-11 have been canceled by the latest, December 20, 2005 Amendment and Response to the September 20, 2005 Office Action for the 09/687,510 application.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner refer to the 09/687,510 application and its prosecution history file for a complete description of the above-noted rejections as well as other rejections and other cited references. Applicants also respectfully request that the Examiner let the Applicants know if the Examiner has any questions regarding this matter.

New Claims 20-57

Regarding new claim 20, Applicants submit that none of the above references discloses at least a method of tracking an innovation, including determining one or more actions requested by a user with respect to stored information associated with the innovation, determining an identification of the user, and logging the one or more actions and the identification of the user. Thus

Applicants submit that claim 20 of the Subject Application, and claims 21 through 30, which depend from claim 20, are allowable.

Regarding new claim 31, Applicants submit that none of the above references discloses at least a system for tracking an innovation, including a processor that executes instructions and thereby causes the processor to determine one or more actions requested by a user with respect to stored information associated with the innovation, determine an identification of the user, and log the one or more actions and the identification of the user. Thus Applicants submit that claim 31 of the Subject Application, and claims 32 through 40, which depend from claim 31, are allowable.

Regarding new claim 41, Applicants submit that none of the above references discloses at least a system for monitoring an innovation, including a database that stores information associated with the innovation, and a processor to: perform an action requested by a user with respect to the stored information, determine an identity of the user, and create a record of the action and the identity of the user. Thus Applicants submit that claim 41 of the Subject Application, and claims 42 and 43, which depend from claim 41, are allowable.

Regarding new claim 44, Applicants submit that none of the above references discloses at least a system for monitoring an innovation, comprising a database that stores information associated with the innovation, and a processor to: perform actions requested by user with respect to the stored information; determine identities of the users; and accumulate statistics concerning the actions and the identities of the users. Thus Applicants submit that claim 44 of the Subject Application, and claims 45 and 46, which depend from claim 44, are allowable.

Regarding new claim 47, Applicants submit that none of the above references discloses at least a system for tracking an innovation, comprising means for determining one or more actions requested by a user with respect to stored information concerning the innovation, means for determining an

identification of the user, and means for logging the one or more actions and the identification of the user.

Regarding new claim 48, Applicants submit that none of the above references discloses at least a system for providing access to an innovation, comprising a processor that executes instructions and thereby causes the processor to determine one or more actions requested by a user with respect to stored information linked to the innovation, the stored information comprising one or more non-disclosure agreements (NDAs), determine an identification of the user, determine whether the user is subject to any of the one or more NDA, and execute the one or more actions only if the user is subject to any of the one or more NDAs. Thus Applicants submit that claim 48 of the Subject Application, and claims 49 through 57, which depend from claim 48, are allowable.

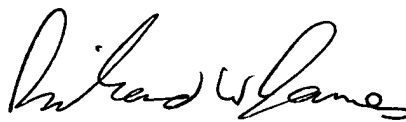
For those reasons, Applicants submit that claims 20-57 are patentable over the cited references.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8-18 and 20-57 are in condition for allowance. Applicants also submit that no new matter has been introduced in the claims presented herein. Accordingly, passage to allowance of claims 8-18 and 20-57 at an early date is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that the Subject Application is in condition for disposition other than allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' Attorney at the telephone number listed below so that any concerns may be expeditiously addressed.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard W. James", written over a horizontal line.

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